THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Centrally sponsored scheme for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) was started in the year 1988-1989 with 100% financial support from the Government of India. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 32 States/Union Territories covering 582 districts in the country. Funds have also been provided to States for setting up of Computer centres in 3325 tehsils/taluks/blocks and 562 sub-divisions in the country. So far Rs. 346.13 crores have been released to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme of CLR.

Consideration of Assam as a special category State

3106. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether the Government of India will consider Assam as a special category State in the matter of economic development without asking the State to contribute its share as it cannot do so due to annual natural calamity with heavy floods damaging the existing structures of roads, bridges every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): There is no proposal with the Ministry of Rural Development to consider Assam as a special category State in the matter of economic development without asking the State to constribute its share, in those schemes where the State has to contribute a certain share.

Income gap between rural and urban population

3107. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a gradual rise in the income gap between the rural and urban population;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what plan of action Government have in mind to reduce this gap; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken to reduce this gap.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) According to the information available from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (National Accounts Division), the per captia income measured in terms of Net Domestic Products (NDP) was Rs. 1245 for the rural and Rs. 2888 for urban areas respectively in 1980-81, at current prices. The corresponding incomes were Rs. 5783 and Rs. 13525 for 1993-94 at current prices. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1993-94.

(b) The reasons for per capita income gap between rural and urban is due to the existence of differential resource base, productivity of the workers and the nature of economic activity in the rural areas *vis-a-vis* the urban areas.

(c) and (d) With a view to reduce the gap in income between the rural and urban population, the Ministry of Rural Development emphasis is on more employment opportunities to the rural poor through self and wage employment programmes namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programmes (NFFWP). Besides these, area development programmes and infrastructure creation programmes and provision of amenities also result in reducing the gap.

Scam in implementation of Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra

† 108. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scam of Rs. 9.1 crores has come to surface in the Solapur district of Maharashtra in the implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in regard to the irregularities being committed in other States of the country;

(c) the State-wise numbers thereof and details of the action taken; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.